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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

January 15, 1926.

F.S.
O-13

FOREIGN NEWS ON ONIONS

INFERIOR CANARY ISLAND ONION SEED POSSIBLE

American importers and planters of Canary Island onion seed should use considerable care in their purchases of white crystal wax onion seed during 1926. From all indications there will be a short crop of this particular seed this year, as reported by the Department under date of October 27, 1925, and, because of the demand for it in the United States, there is considerable danger of growers and even some Canary Island shippers mixing toasted yellow onion seed with their shipments of crystal wax.

In 1925 about 25,000 pounds of seed, labeled white crystal wax, were shipped to the American market while the total crop of that variety was no larger than 16,000 pounds. High prices offered for crystal wax seed undoubtedly resulted in considerable mixing of other seed, largely yellow onion seed. This seed, according to information considered reliable, was toasted to prevent germination so that it would not be found after being planted in the United States. The situation this season is likely to be conducive to a continuation of the practice.

The danger of receiving this mixed seed in the United States can be lessened considerably by the insertion in all contracts of a clause calling for a germination test to be made under the supervision of some official body such as the Granja Agricola of Santa Cruz, Teneriffe. If this is done the best manner of carrying out this arrangement would be to make payment through one of the local banks in the Canaries, thereby compelling shippers to produce official germination tests of sufficiently high percentages before payment would be made.

The United States takes around 90 per cent of the onion seed crop of the Canary Islands. Exports to this country during 1925 amounted to 110,612 pounds of which approximately 25,000 pounds were forwarded as crystal wax and 85,000 pounds as yellow Bermuda. In producing onion seed the final planting of the onions takes place during October or a little earlier depending upon the point on the Island where the onions are planted. The seed is harvested during July and the early part of August and shipments are made to the United States via London or Liverpool at once so that the seed will be available to American planters in time for fall planting.

SPANISH ONION SHIPMENTS.

Exports of onions from Valencia to the United States during the period December 27 to January 13, amounted to 12,078 cases and 17,015 crates, all shipped during the week ending January 13, according to a cable to the Department of Agriculture from Consul Edwards, at Valencia. The average time in passage is 15 to 18 days. The Spanish market is very weak according to the Consul. Shipments to the United States for the season now total 176,073 cases and 757,340 crates.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

February 2, 1926.

F.S.
O-14

FOREIGN NEWS ON ONIONS

SPANISH ONION SHIPMENTS

Fairly large shipments of onions from Valencia to the United States are again reported during the last half of January, according to cabled advices received in the Department of Agriculture from Consul C. S. Edwards at Valencia. Shipments to the United States during the period January 14 to January 30 totaled 74,948 crates and 19,324 cases of which 43,484 crates and 19,324 cases moved during the week ending January 30th. The shipments during the latter week are due to arrive in New York around February 8th. The Consul reports that the Valencia market is somewhat steadier.

Exports from the Valencia district to the United States by weeks since the first of the season have been as follows: a/

1925-26 Week ending	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Crates</u>
Aug. 25	3,241	8,147
Sept. 3	9,200	44,000
10	6,373	39,412
18	6,491	50,430
26	3,894	69,908
Oct. 3	1,093	29,411
10	---	22,515
16	20,196	162,186
27	31,899	64,243
Nov. 3	10,445	65,655
11	26,105	114,141
18	18,215	16,460
28	13,095	8,336
Dec. 5	6,282	18,602
12	---	---
19	2,237	692
26	5,229	26,182
Jan. 6	---	---
13	12,078	17,015
23	---	31,464
30	<u>19,324</u>	<u>43,484</u>
Total	195,407	832,288

a/ Figures preliminary and subject to revision.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

F.S.
O-15

February 6, 1926

FOREIGN NEWS ON ONIONS

PROSPECTS FOR THE EGYPTIAN ONION CROP

The 1925-26 onion crop in Egypt is being unofficially estimated at somewhat below that of last year and also as about two weeks late, according to a cable received in the Department of Agriculture from Consul Geist at Alexandria. Some trade estimates place the reduction at about 20 per cent, but these estimates have not been confirmed. Last year's crop, presumably the commercial crop, was officially estimated at 10,062,000 bushels of 57 pounds each. Consul Geist states that the coming crop will be better in quality than that of last year.

Shipments of Egyptian onions last year, when the crop was about on time or possibly a few days early, began arriving in the United States at the end of March. Shipments from the present crop, therefore, so far as can be judged, at present, should not begin to reach the American market until after the first of April and possibly not until the second week of the month, when they will come into competition with early arrivals from Texas. American imports from Egypt last year amounted to 189,000 bushels in April, 59,000 in May, 338,000 in June and 88,000 bushels in July. The largest arrivals occurred in June, following the peak of shipments of the Texas and California early crop.

With preliminary reports received by the Department indicating that the acreage devoted to commercial onion production in the United States this year is larger than last year's acreage of 56,950 acres, with stocks remaining in growers hands and in commercial storage on January 1, larger than for any of the past five years, and with prospects for a somewhat smaller Egyptian crop, it is likely that imports from Egypt this year will be smaller than in 1925. The market outlook for Egyptian onions, in any event, does not appear as favorable as last year.

The Department of Agriculture will issue by-weekly cabled reports on shipments of onions from Egypt to the United States, as soon as the season is under way. These may be obtained from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in Washington, or in condensed preliminary form from field offices of the Bureau.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

February 11, 1926

F.S.
C-16

FOREIGN NEWS ON ONIONS

THE EGYPTIAN ONION SITUATION

With a somewhat larger early onion crop in prospect in Texas and California, and with the 1925-26 Egyptian onion crop being unofficially estimated at somewhat below the crop of last year, it appears unlikely that American imports from Egypt this year will be as large as the record trade last year, when 706,000 bushels, or about 1,400 cars were imported from Egypt. Continental European demand which has been increasing may further relieve the American market.

A two weeks delay in the Egyptian harvest will also tend to reduce Egyptian shipments to this country, but with the Texas crop also late, possibly by as much as two weeks, this factor will not be as important as under normal conditions. The first arrivals from Egypt, as far as can be judged at present, should occur early in April at about the time that the first shipments from Texas will be coming on to the market. Texas growers, it appears, will not be able to profit much from the expected delay in arrivals from Egypt.

With a larger early American crop in prospect, it is possible that early shipments from Egypt may be materially smaller than last year, with the bulk of arrivals coming in after the peak of the early crop movement from Texas and California. Shippers who will have stocks to move during June should watch the Egyptian situation, as this would seem to be a logical time for the heaviest Egyptian movement this year. Bi-weekly cabled reports of Egyptian exports will be available from this office and the field offices of the Bureau.

Although Egypt has exported onions for many years the magnitude of the present trade is only of recent development, being the result largely of wider distribution following upon the establishment of a number of new steamship connections between Egypt and foreign ports. In former years Egyptian onions were shipped largely to the United Kingdom and some other European markets especially Austria. The United States in prewar years took no Egyptian onions direct but in recent years has been one of Egypt's most important customers. Before the war direct sailings from Alexandria to New York were exceedingly rare but today at least one twenty-day steamer sails for New York every six days. Similarly there has been a development recently in the export of Egyptian onions to Cuba and other remote markets because of the availability of special steamship facilities at the height of the season permitting speedy distribution of the Egyptian crop in all parts of the world.

Statistics of the onion industry in Egypt for the past twelve years are given in the following table. In a normal year the onions available for export from Egypt range from 35 to 50 per cent of the total crop:

AREA AND PRODUCTION OF ONIONS IN EGYPT

Season	Area	Production
	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Bushels</u>
(Average 5 years)		
1912-13 to 1916-17	26,030	6,892,490
1917-18 " 1921-22	34,823	8,703,100
1917-18	45,187	11,872,510
1918-19	30,374	a/
1919-20	33,864	a/
1920-21	28,479	7,027,470
1921-22	36,213	9,023,390
1922-23	42,034	9,919,780
1923-24	40,770	10,120,930
1924-25	40,609	10,051,700

a/ Reliable statistics not available.

Varieties Produced.

The bulk of the Egyptian onion crop is produced in upper Egypt and most of the onions are of the red Spanish variety. Egyptian onions in general are quite similar to the Spanish except that they are slightly stronger and a little smaller in size. Two types of commercial onions are grown in Egypt, the "Saidi" and the "Beheiri", both being red in color. The "Saidi" variety is produced in Upper Egypt and the "Beheiri" in Lower Egypt. Most of the onions entering the export trade are of the "Saidi" variety because of their firmness and general uniformity of size and color. "Beheiri" onions are important in the internal trade of Egypt. This variety of onion is popular in the internal trade because of its desirable flavor, and it is much used in cooking.

Planting and Harvesting Season.

The onion crop year in Egypt starts on September 1 and ends on August 31 of the following year. The usual time of sowing the seed both in Upper and Lower Egypt is in the month of September. The period for transplanting the bulbs varies according to whether the Nile falls early or late. The operation is generally carried out, however, in the months of November and December when the bulk of the export crop is transplanted. In cases where onions are grown on irrigated land in both Upper and Lower Egypt transplanting does not take place until in December and January. Harvesting takes place four to five months after transplanting. The first onions of the Upper Egyptian crop usually appear in Alexandria early in March and these, when exported, generally realize high prices.

Marketing Methods.

The marketing of Egyptian onions in most foreign countries is largely determined by the time of maturity of the crop in competitive producing countries. With respect to the American market the demand for Egyptian onions is almost entirely dependent upon the condition, size, and the time of maturity of the Texas crop. Egyptian onions cannot compete with American onions on favorable terms once the movement of the Texas crop is under way, and Egyptian exports must be adjusted as carefully as possible to

the marketing of the United States crop. In the same way as regards Continental markets, the Egyptian crop must precede the early Spanish crop. For this reason the Egyptian export trade in onions is generally considered as highly speculative, operators frequently losing in some markets all the profits made in others, and experiencing, consequently, in some years very disastrous results and in other years substantial profits. Exportation to England and some Continental countries, however, is relatively steady year in and year out.

The onions are purchased from the Egyptian farmer by up-country merchants or brokers who ship the product to Alexandria. The onions are sold direct from the train at the Gabbary Station in Alexandria to exporters, the bulk of the export crop being shipped to Alexandria by rail. The onions are prepared for export at Alexandria, where they are carefully graded and packed in standard jute bags weighing 112 pounds gross, or twenty bags to one shipment ton. Prior to export shipment the sacks are opened and the onions dried in the sun to insure their standing the ocean voyage. The export season begins in earnest early in March, as a rule, and ends its maximum activity towards the middle of June. There is, however, a small export which runs almost continuously throughout the entire year.

Some exporters are developing individual brands and endeavoring to insure uniformity and standard quality. This modern merchandising practice will undoubtedly do much towards heightening the prestige of the Egyptian onion in world markets, and, consequently, should tend to develop a more even export demand from year to year in markets which purchase onions from several sources.

Egyptian exporters usually operate with their foreign customers only on a strict letter of credit basis which permits them to draw cash in full upon presentation of complete shipping documents at the bank in Alexandria. Some shippers, however, agree to part cash against presentation of documents at Alexandria with the balance payable upon arrival of the shipment at the foreign destination. As onions are a somewhat perishable commodity both buyer and seller are anxious not to assume the risks of the ocean voyage. With the usual handling, however, the Egyptian onion shows little if any deterioration after long ocean voyages, if sound and dry when shipped.

Ocean Freight Rates.

Ocean freight rates on Egyptian onions from Alexandria to European Mediterranean, United Kingdom, and American ports are usually determined late in January for the entire season by the representatives of the various shipping conferences. A rather strict differential is maintained in quotations between United Kingdom and American ports. However, a surprisingly large share of the Egyptian onions going to Atlantic Seaboard ports (Boston and New York) are carried by non-conference steamers, some of which quote below and others above the conference rate, depending upon the service offered, the steamer, and the scheduled time of arrivals at destination.

Foreign Trade.

That onions are rapidly taking their place as an important factor in the foreign trade of Egypt is evidenced by an examination of the Egyptian export returns for the last three seasonal years ending August 31 of 1923, 1924 and 1925. These statistics show that exports have increased from

3,450,000 bushels in 1922-23 to 5,995,000 bushels in 1924-25. While the United Kingdom still remains the principal foreign market, Egyptian onions are now exported in important quantities to all of North Western Europe as well as to the United States. The tariff on onions imported into the United States is 1 cent a pound.

EGYPTIAN ONION EXPORTS: September 1 to August 31, 1922-23 to 1924-25.

Countries	1922-23	1923-24	1924-25
	<u>Bushels</u>	<u>Bushels</u>	<u>Bushels</u>
United Kingdom	2,037,120	1,976,745	2,166,455
Malta	-	31	4,214
Aden	14,577	21,385	13,488
British India	86	-	-
British East Africa	26,726	18,502	10,843
Arabia	11,399	15,327	10,923
Austria	2,442	27,767	15,476
Belgium	2,016	11,329	18,181
Denmark	17,660	17,352	17,727
Eritrea	3,076	2,312	7,420
France	94,328	293,152	329,109
Germany	121,965	452,188	782,628
Greece	21,880	30,072	9,939
Holland	94,962	192,060	232,505
Italy	407,669	1,043,153	1,373,633
Palestine	9,846	23,206	27,544
Sweden	5,437	5,501	638
Switzerland	24,222	35,013	22,127
Syria	2,495	20,382	25,327
Tripoli	8,945	4,744	4,735
Turkey	38,351	38,304	616
United States	490,507	265,036	324,693
Portuguese Poss, in Africa :	1,816	1,766	797
Other Countries	11,253	30,111	95,072
Total	3,449,710	4,525,488	5,994,895

This report is based on data supplied by the former American Consul at Alexandria, Mr. Lester C. Maynard and by Richard A. May, the present American Trade Commissioner at that post.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

F.S.
0-17

FOREIGN NEWS ON ONIONS

February 19, 1926.

SPANISH ONION SHIPMENTS

Large shipments of onions from the Valencia district of Spain to the United States are reported during the first half of February, according to cabled advices received in the Department of Agriculture from Consul C. S. Edwards at Valencia. Exports to the United States during the period January 31 to February 18 totaled to 127,548 crates and 29,144 cases of which 21,705 crates and 2,387 cases were shipped during the week ending February 18. The latter shipments are due to arrive in New York around March 4, according to the Consul. The shipments during the first part of the period reported should arrive in New York during the next seven or eight days. The Consul reports the Valencia market rather firm.

Exports from the Valencia district to the United States by weeks, since the first of the season, have been as follows: a/

<u>1925-26</u> Period ending	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Crates</u>
Aug. 25	3,241	8,147
Sept. 3	9,200	44,000
10	6,373	39,412
18	6,491	50,430
26	3,894	69,908
Oct. 3	1,093	29,411
10	---	22,515
16	20,196	162,186
27	31,899	64,248
Nov. 3	10,445	65,655
11	26,105	114,141
18	18,215	16,460
28	13,095	8,336
Dec. 5	6,282	18,602
12	---	---
19	2,237	692
26	5,229	26,182
JanO 6	---	---
13	12,078	17,015
23	---	31,464
30	19,324	43,484
Feb. 11	26,757	105,843
18	2,387	21,705
Total	224,551	959,836

a/ Figures preliminary and subject to revision.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

March 4, 1926

F.S.
O-18

FOREIGN NEWS ON ONIONS

NEW CROP EGYPTIAN ONIONS ENROUTE

The first shipment of new crop Egyptian onions, consisting of 4,000 bags of 112 lbs. each or the equivalent of 7,860 bushels, is now enroute to the United States and is due to arrive in Boston about March 24, according to a cable to the Department of Agriculture from Consul Raymond Geist at Alexandria. Although the new crop has previously been reported as about two weeks late, this first shipment is reaching the American market two days before the first arrival last season, a shipment of 15,400 bags unloaded at Boston and New York.

Consul Geist cables that arrivals in Alexandria from up-country are now averaging 10,000 bags daily, but that the demand from both the United States and European countries is at present very light.

No estimate of this year's acreage has yet been received but a cable from the International Institute of Agriculture states that the condition of the Egyptian onion crop on March 1 is officially estimated at 103, with 100 being taken as the average yield for the past ten years. Earlier unofficial estimates have placed the crop somewhat below that of last year.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

March 6, 1926

F.S.
C-19

FOREIGN NEWS ON ONIONS

UNITED STATES GROWING IMPORTER OF ONIONS

American importation of foreign grown onions, a growing trade before the war, has reached new high levels in the past four years. Arrivals from foreign countries this season promise to be the second largest on record unless importations are materially curtailed during the remaining four months of the season. Imports during the 7 months ending January 1926 were larger than for the corresponding period of any previous year except that of the fiscal year 1922, amounting to 1,343,000 bushels as compared with 970,000 bushels for the same months last season and 1,860,000 bushels in the 7 months ending January 1922.

American imports during the 3 years July 1, 1922 to June 30, 1925 averaged 1,754,000 bushels annually as compared with an average of 1,176,000 bushels for the 5 year period 1910-14, an increase of approximately 600,000 bushels. The importance of these onion imports is further shown by the fact that imports during the past three seasons constituted about 10 per cent of the average commercial crop produced in this country and about 12 per cent of the average shipments in cars, the commercial crop having averaged 17,975,000 bushels and the shipments in cars about 15,000,000 bushels.

These onions come from all parts of the world, but principally from Spain and Egypt, with lesser quantities from the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Canada, Italy, Chile, Mexico, Australia and Bermuda. Spain is by far the principal source of our imports, supplying on an average about 60 per cent of the total importations. Imports from Spain were unusually heavy during the first 7 months of the current season, receipts amounting to 1,098,000 bushels as compared with 875,000 in the same period last season and 1,090,000 bushels for all of last season. Practically all of our imports from Spain come from the provinces of Valencia and Alicante.

The season for shipping from Spain extends practically through the year, beginning in May when the early onion, the "babosa", is ready for shipment, and ending the following April when the bulk of the principal commercial variety, the "grano" onion has been shipped out. Our imports of the early Spanish onions, however, are relatively small, amounting in all to only about 5 per cent of our total imports from Spain. The main importing season runs from August to the end of February, when heavy quantities of the large, bright golden and oval "grano" onions come in. This movement occurs, of course, when our eastern markets are handling enormous quantities of stock from Massachusetts, Indiana, Ohio and New York, as well as California.

The large increase in our onion trade as compared with pre-war years has been due very largely to the great increase in imports from Egypt. The average annual imports from Egypt during the 5 years 1910 to 1914 amounted to only 109,000 bushels, but our takings of the 1924 crop reached 680,000 bushels, an increase of 570,000 over the pre-war average. Egypt during the past season supplied about 30 per cent of our total imports as compared with an average of only about 9 per cent in pre-war years. This growth of Egyptian shipments has taken place largely as a result, it is said, of the establishment of better transportation facilities between Alexandria and American ports. The bulk of the Egyptian crop usually arrives during the 3 months April to June, with occasional small shipments arriving at the end of March and some coming in during July. Egyptian onions cannot compete on favorable terms with Texas stock when the movement of the latter crop is in full swing, so that Egyptian arrivals are usually heaviest during June, following the period of heaviest movement of the early domestic crop. Imports occasionally are also large in April, if the Egyptian crop can be placed on American markets before the Texas movement becomes heavy.

Most of the onions imported into the United States are consumed in and around the large eastern markets, New York, Boston and Philadelphia. Some foreign onions are competing in these markets all the year round. Chicago, the principal western market, takes more imported onions than practically all of the other middle western markets combined. The actual car lot disposals, however, are relatively small compared with the supplies received from domestic sources. Car lot unloads of imported onions at Chicago averaged about 100 cars annually in the 8 years ending 1922. The shipments to Chicago and other western markets are principally of Spanish origin.

Spanish onions are imported chiefly in cases, and crates with half-cases occasionally offered. A case contains from 125 - 130 pounds (2.38 bushels), half-cases about 65 pounds, and crates from 37 - 40 pounds (.77 bushels). Egyptian onions are shipped in jute bags containing about 112 pounds (1.9 bushels), or about 20 bags to a shipment ton. The import duty is 1¢ per pound. The ocean freight rate on onions from Valencia and Alexandria to New York is quoted by a certain American lines as follows:

Rate				Cents	Cents
				per	per
				100 lbs.	bushel
Valencia to New York	3.75 pesetas	(53¢)	per case	40	22.8
" " " "	1.25 "	(13¢)	" crate	40	22.8
Alexandria to " "	2s. 3d.	(55¢)	" bag	50	28.8

TABLE II - ONIONS: Seasonal Imports into the United States by Countries, July, 1922 - January, 1926

Season and month	Spain	United Kingdom	Egypt	Other countries	Total
	<u>Bushels</u>	<u>Bushels</u>	<u>Bushels</u>	<u>Bushels</u>	<u>Bushels</u>
1922 - 23					
July	193,166:	1,934:	0:	18,154:	213,254
August	45,362:	238:	0:	12,057:	58,147
September..	43,523:	5,384:	6,000:	1,264:	56,171
October ...	227,649:	6,111:	0:	3,724:	237,484
November...	78,415:	0:	0:	958:	79,373
December ..	132,008:	2,464:	0:	4,750:	139,222
January ...	71,389:	11,875:	0:	19,753:	103,022
February...	131,465:	5,463:	0:	9,941:	146,869
March	28,511:	1,406:	0:	32,415:	62,332
April	15,296:	8,943:	97,437:	39,864:	161,540
May	0:	62,704:	104,071:	14,952:	181,727
June	23,005:	50,884:	239,574:	23,034:	341,547
Total..	990,289:	157,396:	447,082:	185,921:	1,730,688
1923-24					
July	0:	0:	15,978:	156,737:	172,765
August	0:	4,733:	4,352:	148,851:	157,936
September..	50,696:	12,849:	0:	611:	64,156
October ...	255,783:	24,623:	0:	6,255:	286,671
November ..	183,235:	1,091:	0:	1,545:	185,871
December...	88,943:	2,504:	0:	468:	91,815
January ...	57,369:	1,256:	0:	92:	58,717
February ..	52,051:	4,266:	0:	6,674:	62,991
March	74,795:	218:	932:	15,148:	91,143
April	1,740:	0:	18,958:	43,376:	64,074
May	1,107:	0:	34,789:	13,663:	49,559
June	35,138:	0:	72,737:	12,828:	120,703
Total..	800,757:	51,540:	147,796:	406,308:	1,406,401
1924-25					
July	118,419:	4,855:	25,619:	26,395:	175,288
August	89,150:	918:	0:	8,642:	98,710
September..	267,235:	10,673:	0:	3,769:	281,702
October ...	158,253:	3,257:	0:	848:	162,358
November...	127,546:	1,610:	0:	3,896:	133,052
December...	20,335:	5,229:	0:	781:	26,345
January ...	90,089:	1,300:	0:	1,426:	92,815
February ..	56,729:	395:	0:	19,368:	76,492
March	15,039:	635:	6,102:	56,847:	78,343
April	222:	0:	189,447:	53,781:	243,450
May	0:	14,256:	59,142:	43,214:	116,612
June	147,301:	27,877:	337,938:	76,425:	589,531
Total..	1,090,358:	70,710:	613,238:	295,392:	2,074,698
1925-26					
July	179,736:	3,333:	83,001:	40,534:	311,609
August	142,621:	7,927:	0:	4,362:	154,910
September..	155,472:	4,162:	0:	14,283:	173,922
October ...	176,268:	4,522:	0:	2,363:	183,153
November...	242,151:	10,025:	0:	50,811:	302,987
December...	94,973:	930:	0:	6,956:	102,899
January ...	107,259:	3,060:	0:	3,023:	113,342
Total (7 months)	1,038,430:	33,964:	88,011:	122,377:	1,342,822

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

TABLE II - ONIONS: Imports into the United States by countries,

Country from which imported	Year, ending June 30				
	Average 1910-14	1922	1923	1924	1925
	<u>Bushels</u>	<u>Bushels</u>	<u>Bushels</u>	<u>Bushels</u>	<u>Bushels</u>
Spain	471,143:	1,522,311:	990,288:	1,097,991:	1,090,360
United Kingdom ...	336,702:	247,423:	157,596:	51,540:	70,710
Egypt	109,348:	242,544:	447,022:	147,796:	618,232
Bermuda	104,954:	33,759:	17,551:	9,297:	8,645
Mexico	40,883:	26,023:	19,597:	28,536:	17,873
Canary Islands....	31,330:	18,445:	13,498:	7,551:	6,537
Australia	2/ 22,359:	119,389:	3,423:	3,712:	8,013
Italy	15,275:	73,597:	10,784:	17,016:	18,656
Netherlands	1,408:	40,330:	33,481:	310:	60,480
Canada	1,405:	65,902:	42,300:	774:	28,637
Other countries ..	59,593:	97,792:	47,122:	41,897:	146,499
Total	1,175,900:	2,487,565:	1,782,525:	1,406,420:	2,074,698

Compiled from Commerce and Navigation of the United States, 1914, and official records of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

2/ Includes Tasmania.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

March 10, 1926

F.S.
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FOREIGN-NEWS ON ONIONS

SPANISH ONION SHIPMENTS

Much smaller shipments to the United States of onions from the Valencia district of Spain are reported for the two weeks ending March 6th in a cable to the Department of Agriculture from Consul C. S. Edwards at Valencia. Exports during the period amounted to 21,705 crates and 4,611 cases, all shipped during the week ending March 6th, and should arrive in New York around the 22nd. The Valencia market is reported weak.

Exports from the Valencia district to the United States since the first of the season, have been as follows: a/

<u>1925-26</u>	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Crates</u>
Period ending		
Aug. 25	3,241	8,147
Sept. 3	9,200	44,000
10	6,373	39,412
18	6,491	50,430
26	3,894	69,908
Oct. 3	1,093	29,411
10	---	22,411
16	20,196	162,186
27	31,899	64,248
Nov. 3	10,445	65,655
11	26,105	114,141
18	18,215	16,460
28	13,095	8,336
Dec. 5	6,282	18,602
12	---	---
19	2,237	692
26	5,229	26,182
Jan. 6	---	---
13	12,078	17,015
23	---	31,464
30	19,324	43,484
Feb. 11	26,757	105,843
18	2,337	21,705
27	---	---
Mar. 6	4,611	21,705
Total	229,162	981,541

a/ Figures preliminary and subject to revision.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

March 19, 1926

F.S.

O-21

FOREIGN NEWS ON ONIONS

EGYPTIAN ONION SHIPMENTS

Shipments of Egyptian onions now afloat for the United States total approximately 47,500 bags, or roughly 95,000 bushels, according to cables received in the Department of Agriculture from Consul Geist at Alexandria. These figures include 25,000 bags sailing today from Alexandria for New York aboard the Belgenland, arrival expected on April 6, and 16,475 bags which sailed on the 16th for Boston and New York with arrival expected about the 7th of April. According to trade reports, the latter shipment consists of 6,000 bags destined for Boston with the balance going to New York. While no details are available, Consul Geist's figures also indicate the shipment of about 2,000 bags during the week ending March 10. These should arrive around the end of this month.

The Egyptian market is reported firm with quotations of 11 shillings per bag, equivalent to \$2.67, being quoted c.i.f. New York.

These reports on Egyptian onion shipments, previously announced as a biweekly service, will be released weekly hereafter instead of every two weeks, as long as shipments from Egypt continue important.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

March 30, 1926

F.S.
O-22

FOREIGN NEWS ON ONIONS

EGYPTIAN ONION SHIPMENTS

Onions to the extent of 50,756 bags, or about 101,500 bushels, left Egypt for the United States during the period March 18 to 27, according to cabled information received in the Department of Agriculture from Consul Gaist at Alexandria. The above figures include 39,500 bags on board the S.S. "Adriatic", which sailed March 26 and is due in New York April 12.

Total quantities now afloat for the United States from Egypt amount to 98,231 bags, or approximately 196,500 bushels. Those figures include the shipments noted in F.S./O-22, March 19, 1926, which were due to arrive April 6 and 7, in addition to the shipments expected on or about April 12.

The Egyptian market is reported as still firm with prices standing at \$2.67 c.i.f. New York.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

April 6, 1926

F.S.
O-23

FOREIGN NEWS ON ONIONS

EGYPTIAN ONION SHIPMENTS

Shipments of Egyptian onions now afloat for the United States total approximately 148,000 bags or about 296,000 bushels, according to cables received in the Department of Agriculture from Consul Geist at Alexandria. This figure includes 20,000 bags expected to sail from Alexandria today aboard the Lapland and 25,000 bags expected to sail today or tomorrow on the Blue Triangle, of which 12,000 bags are destined for Boston and 13,000 for New York. It also includes 10,500 bags reported as exported to the United States during the week ending April 3, vessels not named.

While the shipments now afloat are approximately 55,000 bags above those of a week ago and 100,000 greater than the amount reported afloat on March 19, it should be noted that the Belgenland with 25,000 bags aboard and the Sebino with 16,475 bags are expected to dock tomorrow or the next day. Attention is called to the fact that the afloat figure published a week ago (98,231) should have been 92,231.

No change in the Egyptian market has been reported.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

April 7, 1926

E.S.
O-24

FOREIGN NEWS ON ONIONS

THE SPANISH ONION INDUSTRY

Onions have been cultivated in Spain for hundreds of years. Their introduction is generally credited to the Romans who ruled the Spanish Peninsula for seven centuries. Classic authorities on agriculture refer repeatedly to the onion as an Iberian delicacy. While onions are produced to some extent in nearly all sections of Spain, commercial production is limited almost entirely to a strip of territory with an average width of about thirty miles stretching along the Mediterranean from Castellon in the north to Denia in the south. The output of this region constitutes about 95 per cent of the exportable surplus of the country. In general the farms are small, ranging from one to three acres in size and the fact that hundreds of farmers are growing onions on small plots on these farms makes it impossible to ascertain acreage and production. While no official statistics are available it is estimated that approximately 15-16,000 acres are devoted to the growing of onions in the Valencia district. The total exportable surplus of the "grano" onion, which constitutes the bulk of the commercial crop, aggregates about 6,000,000 bushels annually.

The onions of this region are known in the trade as Valencia onions although in the United States dealers distinguish between those imported from Denia and those imported from Valencia. While it is claimed that there is no difference botanically between onions from Valencia and those from Denia, it is generally said in the trade that Denia onions have a slightly better flavor and are usually of better appearance. This is probably due to the fact that the soil in and around Denia and the province of Alicante is more fertile than that in the province of Valencia. Furthermore farmers around Denia grow only one crop a year while those around Valencia produce three crops a year on the same soil.

Preparation of Seed Beds

Valencia onions are produced from locally grown seed. The onions are all raised from seedlings as no sets are used. The seed beds are formed in rectangular plots 3 by 4 yards in area with ridges surrounding each plot to retain irrigation water. The soil of the seed beds is finely pulverized and a small quantity of fertilizer, composed of sulphate of ammonia, superphosphate of lime and ashes or potash is thoroughly mixed in. A little well rotted stable manure is also used. The seed is sown broad cast in these beds. The seed of the "babosa" is sown in August and that of the "grano" in December. Sufficient irrigation is applied to germinate the seeds and to develop the small plants. By the latter part of April the young "grano" plants have reached a height of 8 or 10 inches and are ready to be transplanted. In the case of the "babosa" the transplanting takes place in December.

Transplanting

The fields in which the onions are transplanted are laid out in ridges with intervening spaces of 14 inches for irrigation water. Two rows of onions 9 inches apart are planted on these ridges with the plants $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches apart in the row. Where there is no scarcity of water for irrigation purposes, the plants are not set on ridges but on a flat surface. In this case the field is laid out in strips about three yards in width, separated by low ridges to hold the water. The whole strip, however, is flooded with water instead of filling the furrows only as in the other method. The "flat system" is preferable because it facilitates cultivation. When the "flat method" is employed fertilizers are applied after the plants have become well established by simply broadcasting the material and letting in the water immediately after.

Irrigation

On the day of transplanting the field is irrigated so that the soil may have sufficient moisture to make the operation possible. A second irrigation is given a little later in order to give the plants a good start. After this second application irrigation is used as sparingly as possible to induce the plants to make roots, thus promoting the development of the bulb. Shallow cultivation to keep the soil well pulverized and scrupulously clean of weeds then goes on constantly until the harvest time. Most of the work of cultivation, except plowing, is done by hand. The last irrigation is given about three weeks before the harvest.

Fertilizers

Fertilizers composed of 45 parts of sulphate of ammonia, 40 parts of superphosphates of lime and 15 parts of potash are applied to the field several days before transplanting. An average of about 440 pounds of this fertilizer is used per acre. This quantity is only the average amount used as some fields will require 50 per cent more, especially if full rotation has not been practised. The use of fresh organic manure is generally discouraged in the Valencia district unless very well rotted and plowed under some time before planting. Another common form of fertilizer used is sulphate of iron 3 per cent, chloride of potash 7 per cent, superphosphate of lime 55 per cent and sulphate of ammonia 35 per cent.

Rotation of Crops

While Spanish onion growers realize that rotation of crops should be practised because constant cultivation of the onion impoverishes the soil, rotation is not possible in many cases because most farmers have too small an area at their disposal. It usually happens that if prices are good in one season growers immediately raise a new crop on the same soil without resorting to rotation. A great factor in the Spanish system of onion cultivation is a climate which permits cultivation and growing of crops all the year round. Climatic conditions

are said to resemble closely those of California. It is therefore possible for most onion producers to rotate with at least one other crop during the year.

Agricultural scientists who have studied the situation in the Valencia district state that the proper rotation should be as follows: (1) Onions, April to July; (2) Cultivation, August to November; (3) Wheat, November to the middle of June; (4) Cultivation, middle of June to July, inclusive; (5) Vetches or other leguminous plants for forage and for plowing under from September to March; (6) Cultivation to April. Beans and potatoes are sometimes planted in the course of rotation. The fields to which the young plants are to be transplanted are supposed to have borne a green crop for plowing under immediately preceding transplanting. In the case of the "grano", which is transplanted in the latter part of April, the preceding green crop is plowed under in March.

Harvesting Method

Several days before the onions are pulled up the tops are leveled down to admit the sun to the bulbs and check the flow of sap into the tops. Then the onions are pulled up the tops are cut off and the bulbs laid out in the field to dry. When dried they are thoroughly cleaned of all soil and organic matter. They are then ready to be packed and shipped or, in the case of the "grano" crop, they may be stored in bins until the farmer is ready to sell.

Diseases

The Valencia onion is subject to few diseases or attacks on the part of insect pests. When the summers are exceptionally damp, however, fungi and blight attack the plant. These are difficult to combat as the smoothness of the foliage prevents the adherence of fungicides. An insect called the "Talpa Cricket" sometimes does damage.

Labor Costs

The question of labor supply is of relatively little importance because of the smallness of the farms, their small size precluding the use of any but small cultivators and hoes and weeding by hand. Practically all of the work can be done by the farmer and his family. Where extra farm labor is needed the average daily wage paid is about 75 cents for eight hours work. The cost of fertilizers and of water for irrigation in most cases constitute the only important cash charges against the crop. As the onions are usually sold to the buyers in the field the farmer seldom does any packing. The women and children who pack the onions in crates for shipment receive from 25 cents to 40 cents a day. It is estimated that the cost of moving onions from the field f.o.b. boat is a little over \$1.00 per case of 132 lbs. This figure includes the cost of labor for handling and packing, and grading costs, cartage and cost of case.

Harvesting and Shipping Seasons

Two varieties of onions are grown in the Valencia district, the "babosa", an early variety, and the "grano", a late variety. The "babosa" onion is ready for harvesting in May. This is a large flat onion, soft and a poor keeper, hence it cannot be shipped long distances successfully. Great Britain takes most of these onions as they serve to fill in between the Egyptian crop and the "grano" crop, that is from the end of May to the beginning of August, when the new "grano" crop is ready for the market. Relatively small quantities of "babosa" onions are exported to the United States, only about 9 per cent of our total imports of Spanish onions consisting of that variety with "granos" making up the balance of the trade.

The "grano" is the genuine Valencia onion, mild, bright golden in color and oval in shape. It is ready for harvest in the latter part of July or the first of August. If not shipped as soon as harvested, it is stored in long, low sheds resembling corn cribs, where it will keep for months, frequently until March unless defective or affected by disease. The "babosa" on the other hand, must be shipped at once.

While the "grano" is a good keeper in Spain, it is generally impracticable to keep it in cold storage more than two months after arrival in the United States, the length of storage depending, of course, upon its condition on arrival. Shipments received in the United States from Spain after January 15 to February 10 are usually not in a condition suitable for storing in this country. The Spanish onion shipping season extends practically throughout the year, beginning in May when the "babosa" is ready for market and ending in April, when all the "grano" crop has been moved.

Packing and Grading

Almost all of the onions exported from the Valencia district are shipped out in three standardized export packs. Other styles are used, but only to a limited extent. The three standardized packs are the "Cajas Ordinarias", (ordinary cases) the "Medias Cajas" (half cases) and the "Jaulas" (crates). The ordinary case has a capacity of approximately 2.33 bushels, weighing approximately 132 pounds. It has three compartments. The second pack known as the "Medias Cajas" has a capacity of approximately 1.5 bushels and contains about 65 pounds. It is divided into two compartments. The third pack, the "Jaulas", is an ordinary crate with a capacity of approximately 0.77 bushels, weighing from 37 to 40 pounds. This crate is divided into two compartments and is used exclusively for shipments of onions to the United States and Canada. We import large quantities in "ordinary cases", however, and some in "half cases". Most of the onions of the Valencia district are exported in cases.

Onions for the export trade are graded into three sizes, 4's, 5's and 6's, according to the number of tiers packed in a case. Cases of 4's contain 240 onions weighing from 126 to 128 pounds. Cases of 5's

contain 520 onions weighing from 130 to 132 pounds and cases of 6's contain 980 onions weighing from 132 to 143 pounds. Half cases of 4's contain 120 onions weighing from 62 to 64 pounds. When shipped in crates the onions run either 50 to crate or 72 to the crate both packs weighing approximately 37 pounds. The grading is done entirely by hand and sight.

Foreign Trade

The United Kingdom and the United States are the principal foreign outlets for the Valencia onion exports although considerable quantities are also exported to continental Europe. Exports of Valencia onions during the five calendar years 1909-13 averaged 5,884,000 bushels annually. During the five seasons 1920-21 to 1924-25 the average 6,086,000 bushels annually as compared with an average of 4,782,000 bushels for the five preceding seasons. The average for 1915-16 to 1919-20 was low because of the reduction in exports during the latter part of the World War. That the industry has more than re-established itself is evidenced by the fact that exports since the war have averaged 200,000 bushels greater than before the war.

Most of the exports to the United Kingdom are made to the principal auctions on a consignment basis. The British market demands a small onion while the American market takes a large onion. A large proportion of the onions shipped to the United States are exported f.o.b. Valencia. New York is the principal port of entry for the Spanish onions coming to this country, and this trade constitutes a large share of New York City receipts of all onions, both domestic and foreign. From 20 to 25 per cent of the New York imports are handled by auction. Most of the imports not reshipped to receivers and jobbers in other cities are sold by the importing houses to local jobbers who resell to retailers.

Ocean Freight Rate and Tariff

The ocean freight rate on onions from Valencia to New York is about 53 cents a case and 18 cents a crate. This is equivalent to about 40 cents a hundred pounds or about 23 cents a bushel. The tariff on onions is 1 cent a pound.

Tables A, B, C, following, show the Spanish export trade in onions from 1909-13 to 1924-25 while table D gives the United States imports of onions from Spain by months from July 1, 1922 to March 1, 1926. It should be noted that in table A exports are expressed in bushels, no figures on cases and crates being available. In tables B and C the figures on cases include also some half-cases:

TABLE A - ONIONS: Average exports from Spain calendar years
1909-13

Destination	Average 1909-13	Destination	Average continued 1909-13
	1,000 bushels		1,000 bushels
United Kingdom	5,119	Belgium	32
United States	339	Netherlands	18
Argentina	118	France	15
Cuba	104	Porto Rico	10
Italy	58	Other countries	54
Germany	37		
		Total	5,884

Compiled from "Resumen Estadístico del Comercio Exterior de España".

TABLE B - ONIONS: Exports from Spain by Seasons 1915-16 to
1919-20

Destination	1915-16 Cases	a/ 1916-17 Cases	b/ 1917-18 Cases	1918-19 Cases	b/ 1919-20 Cases
United States ..	72,218	176,931	304,235	---	319,399
United Kingdom..	1,686,672	2,072,710	829,129	815,966	1,752,684
France	25,100	143,809	483,475	104,000	---
Other countries	38,044	11,235	15,834	37,127	15,616
Total	1,822,034	2,409,685	1,631,723	957,093	2,087,699
	Crates	Crates	Crates	Crates	Crates
United States ..	527,266	1,312,939	1,102,024	15,450	1,087,929
Other countries	4,185	22,280	10,005	---	13,580
Total	531,451	1,335,219	1,112,029	15,450	1,101,509

a/ Forwarded by Consul V. Winthrope O'Hara at Barcelona.

b/ Forwarded by Consul J. R. Putnam at Valencia.

TABLE C - ONIONS: Exports from Spain by seasons 1920-21 to 1924-25

Destination	1920-21 Cases	1921-22 Cases	1922-23 Cases	1923-24 Cases	1924-25 Cases
Belgium	---	1,600	1,547	300	500
British ports:					
Bristol	72,595	54,929	99,332	110,523	61,178
Cardiff	67,068	74,491	86,295	92,206	72,125
Glasgow	237,621	192,112	227,780	214,895	262,166
Hull	192,180	166,182	168,899	217,286	174,164
Liverpool	610,695	642,322	574,291	604,520	631,729
London	329,290	332,410	316,825	311,076	275,917
Manchester	226,016	279,121	364,766	318,403	307,642
New Castle	98,774	74,713	98,327	96,143	90,204
Other British ports	18,751	64,624	27,080	36,471	21,642

TABLE C - ONIONS: Exports from Spain by seasons 1920-21
to 1924-25, Cont'd.

Destination	1920-21	1921-22	1922-23	1923-24	1924-25
	Cases	Cases	Cases	Cases	Cases
Canada	4,144:	5,011:	13,946:	845:	25,383
France	18,560:	10,980:	---	---	---
Germany	400:	5,633:	---	412:	684
Ireland	37,694:	47,175:	102,151:	95,229:	81,270
Norway	3,350:	3,735:	4,030:	3,800:	13,821
Sweden	595:	1,075:	---	840:	235
United States	162,695:	470,573:	167,762:	118,653:	114,655
Other countries	---	1,400:	300:	2,092:	100
Total cases	2,080,623:	2,444,824:	2,347,371:	2,224,296:	2,133,415
	Crates	Crates	Crates	Crates	Crates
Canada	2,466:	5,011:	16,588:	325:	6,966
England	---	---	541:	---	---
United States	398,207:	1,428,816:	1,073,222:	1,483,054:	1,149,124
Total crates ...	400,673:	1,433,827:	1,054,713:	1,483,379:	1,156,090

Source: Consul Clement S. Edwards at Valencia.

TABLE D- Imports of onions into the United States from Spain,
July 1922 to February 1926.

Month	1922-23	1923-24	1924-25	1925-26
	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels
July	193,166	0	118,419	179,736
August	45,862	0	89,150	142,621
September	43,523	50,696	267,255	155,472
October	227,649	255,783	153,253	176,268
November	78,415	183,235	127,546	242,151
December	132,008	88,843	20,335	94,973
January	71,389	57,369	90,039	107,259
February	131,465	52,051	56,729	157,850
March	28,511	74,795	15,059	
April	15,296	1,740	222	
May	0	1,107	0	
June	23,005	35,138	147,301	
Total	990,289	800,757	1,090,358	

Compiled from the Monthly Summary of Foreign Commerce of the United States.

NOTE: This report is prepared largely from reports submitted by Consul Clement S. Edwards at Valencia, Spain, and other Consuls preceding him at that post.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

April 14, 1926

F.S.
O-25

FOREIGN NEWS ON ONIONS

EGYPTIAN ONION SHIPMENTS

Shipments of Egyptian onions afloat for the United States now total only 83,700 bags, or about 167,400 bushels, as compared with 148,000 bags, or 296,000 bushels, a week ago, according to figures cabled to the Department of Agriculture by Consul Geist at Alexandria. While this indicates a considerable reduction in afloat shipments, it should be noted that last week's figures included two large shipments expected to dock within a day or two, and also two cargoes loading at Alexandria.

Arrivals in the United States during the past week, including two boats scheduled to arrive today (April 13), have totaled 92,250 bags, or approximately 185,500 bushels. Shipments from Egypt in the past week, including the two cargoes reported last week as then loading, have totaled about 73,000 bags.

Cargoes now en route to the United States include 25,000 bags aboard the Blue Triangle, expected to arrive about April 27 or 28; 20,000 aboard the Lapland, due April 23; 10,500 bags exported during the week ending April 3, vessel not named; and exports during the week ending April 10 of 20,000 bags destined for New York and 8,200 bags for Boston, all on vessels not specified.

Consul Geist reports that the American demand for onions is dead, yet prices for export remain unchanged at 11 shillings, or approximately \$2.67 per bag c.i.f. New York.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

April 17, 1926

F.S.
0-26

FOREIGN NEWS ON ONIONS

1926 ONION SEED HARVEST IN CANARY ISLANDS SUFFERS LOSS

The 1926 crop of onion seed in the Canary Islands has suffered a loss of from 10 to 15 per cent as a result of a heavy hail storm during the latter part of February, according to a report received in the Department of Agriculture from Consul Raleigh A. Gibson at Teneriffe. The storm did the greatest damage along the southern coast, and on many farms amounted to a loss of about 50 per cent of the crop. The Consul states that local exporters of onion seed estimate a 15 per cent loss in the crystal wax crop and a 10 per cent loss in yellow Bermuda seed.

The outlook for the 1926 onion seed crop, according to earlier reports from Consul Gibson, has been for a relatively short crop of crystal wax seed (at least short considering demand), but ample supplies of yellow Bermuda seed. This outlook was based upon figures obtained from leading growers as to the quantity of onions planted in the fall of 1925 for the 1926 onion season harvest. Such figures indicate plantings of about 400,000 pounds of crystal wax onions and 928,000 pounds of yellow Bermudas. With white crystal wax seed production estimated at from 5 to 10 pounds of seed from 100 pounds of onions planted, the crop would amount to from 20,000 to 40,000 pounds. Production of yellow Bermuda seed is estimated at 10 to 15 pounds from 100 pounds of yellow onions. This would indicate a seed crop of 93,000 to 140,000 pounds. Dry weather at the end of 1925, however, would, it was thought, tend to reduce these yields slightly.

The demand for crystal wax seed from the 1926 harvest is reported as being unusually heavy, and growers stated, even before the above mentioned damage occurred, according to the Consul, that the anticipated supply could not take care of the demand. Exports of onion seed to the United States from the Canary Islands in 1925 totaled 111,000 pounds, of which 85,000 were listed as yellow Bermuda and 25,000 pounds as crystal wax seed.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

April 26, 1926

F.S.
O-27

FOREIGN NEWS ON ONIONS

EGYPTIAN ONION SHIPMENTS

Shipments of Egyptian onions to the United States during the two weeks ended April 24 totaled about 55,000 bags, or 110,000 bushels, according to figures cabled to the Department of Agriculture by Consul Geist at Alexandria. Of this amount about 52,200 bags are destined for New York and 2,800 for Boston, 27,000 bags of the shipments to New York sailing on the 20th aboard the steamer "River Hudson". Other carriers were not stated. Passage to New York requires around three weeks.

Shipments now afloat for the United States from Egypt, excluding 5,000 bags arriving today (April 26) on the Norfolk Maru, total about 113,700 bags as compared with about 84,000 reported on April 14. It should be noted, however, that arrivals scheduled for the next two or three days total about 30,500 bags, including 25,000 aboard the "Blue Triangle", due April 28, and 5,500 bags reported as shipped the week ending April 3, vessel not specified. No further information on the steamer carrying this shipment has been received. Shipments of 28,200 bags previously reported for the week ending April 10, carriers not stated, should also be nearing American ports.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

F.S.
O-28

May 5, 1926

FOREIGN NEWS ON ONIONS

EGYPTIAN ONION SHIPMENTS

Shipments of Egyptian onions to the United States during the past ten days total 35,000 bags, or about 70,000 bushels, according to cabled information received in the Department of Agriculture from Consul Geist at Alexandria. All of the quantity reported is on board the steamer Amarna, with 15,000 bags destined for Boston and 20,000 for New York, with arrival expected about May 19.

Arrivals in the United States since our last report (dated April 26) include the Lapland with about 24,250 bags (97 carloads) on April 27 and also the Norfolk Maru with 5,000 bags (20 carloads) on the same day. The Lapland cargo contained about 17 cars or over 4,000 bags more than had previously been reported. Trade information is to the effect that many of the arrivals of Egyptian onions are being re-shipped, or are to be re-shipped in bond, now that the Texas crop movement is getting well under way.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

May 15, 1926.

F.S.
0-29

FOREIGN NEWS ON ONIONS

EGYPTIAN ONION SHIPMENTS

Shipments of Egyptian onions now afloat for the United States total 97,150 bags, or approximately 389 carloads, according to cabled information received in the Department of Agriculture from Consul Geist at Alexandria. Of this amount, 35,000 bags are on board the steamer Amarna, originally reported due May 19, but according to press reports now scheduled to arrive about May 25. The remaining shipments consist of 9,040 bags on the steamer Van Buren, which is due to discharge 3,000 bags at Boston on June 3, and 53,110 bags on the steamer Ossa, which carries 24,250 bags billed for Boston and 28,860 billed for New York. The Ossa carries the largest cargo so far this season and will arrive at Boston about June 4. The steamer River Hudson with 27,000 bags, expected to arrive in New York today, is not included in the above afloat figures.

While the above reports indicate continued heavy movement of Egyptian onions toward the United States, it should be stated that an important share of recent arrivals from Egypt have been re-shipped to Cuba and other markets outside of the United States. Reports also indicate that a substantial part of the actual imports through New York have been distributed to other terminal markets in this country. This is a comparatively new development in the handling of Egyptian arrivals that started last year, and it is expected that this year an even wider distribution will occur.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

May 26, 1926.

F.S.
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FOREIGN NEWS ON ONIONS

SPANISH ONION PROSPECTS

This year's Spanish "babosa" or early onion crop is inferior to last year's in regard to size and quality, but prospects for the "grano" or late variety are good, with about the usual acreage planted, according to a cable received in the Department of Agriculture from Consul Edwards at Valencia. It is feared, however, says the Consul, that the "grano" onions may be small because of close planting, and it is the large sizes of this variety that are most wanted for the American trade.

The Valencia trade estimates that about 200,000 crates of "babosa" will be exported to the United States during the next two months. This amount would be not more than half of last year's exports of the early variety, the bulk of which are received in the United States during June and July.

EGYPTIAN ONION SHIPMENTS

Shipments of Egyptian onions now afloat for the United States from Alexandria total about 100,000 bags or approximately 400 carloads, according to cables received in the Department of Agriculture from Consul Geist at Alexandria. The only shipment, at least of any consequence, since our last release of May 15, is a cargo of 38,223 bags or 153 cars aboard the S.S. Tartar Prince which is due in Boston about June 15 with 11,425 bags, and at New York around the 26th with 26,798 bags.

It is possible that several small cargoes in addition to the above shipments may also be en route from Port Said aboard the S.S. Clan Matheson, the S.S. Malvarinen and other boats, as several previously unreported cargoes have recently arrived at New York from Port Said. These arrivals included four small shipments totaling about 44 cars on the 24th, and one cargo of about 14 cars on May 25th.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

June 7, 1926.

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FOREIGN NEWS ON ONIONS

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EGYPTIAN ONION SHIPMENTS

Shipments of Egyptian onions now afloat for the United States from Alexandria, Egypt, total 58,213 bags, or approximately 233 carloads, as compared with 100,000 bags or 400 carloads about two weeks ago, according to information cabled to the Department of Agriculture by Consul Geist at Alexandria. Shipments since our last release, dated May 26, include 4,190 bags aboard the President Harrison, due at Boston about June 15, and 15,800 bags aboard the steamer River Delaware, which carries 3600 bags billed for Boston and 12,200 for New York. This boat is due at Boston June 26.

The remainder now afloat (28,223 bags) is all on board the S.S. Tartar Prince which is due at Boston about June 15 with 11,425 bags, with the remainder of 26,800 destined for New York. As previously stated, some small cargoes may also be en route from Port Said, but no such shipments have been reported.

The S.S. Van Buren, previously reported due at Boston on June 3, discharged 22 cars, or about 5500 bags, at New York on June 4. The S. S. Ossa, with 53,000 bags, scheduled to arrive at Boston about June 4, has not yet been officially reported, but it is not included in the above figures for shipments afloat.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

F.S.
0-32

June 18, 1926.

FOREIGN NEWS ON ONIONS

SPANISH ONION SHIPMENTS

Shipments of new crop Spanish onions from Valencia float for the United States on June 15, or already arrived in this country, totaled about 115,000 crates (approximately 230 cars) or more than half the expected shipments of early onions during June and July, according to cables from Consul Edwards at Valencia, received in the Department of Agriculture.

The shipments now afloat from Valencia consist of three cargoes totaling 59,336 crates, all due at New York about the 27th of this month. The SAUGUS carries 31,961 crates; the CABO PORPOSA 21,375 and the ENGLAND MARU 6,000 according to Consul Edwards. Trade reports state that the HICKTOR with 3,350 packages additional is due June 19.

Actual arrivals to date from Spain consist of 10,000 crates (20 cars) on June 12 aboard the GARCIA DIAZ and 46,540 crates (93 cars) on June 16 aboard the CORSON.

EGYPTIAN ONION SHIPMENTS

No additional shipments of Egyptian onions have been reported since our last release dated June 7. This fact would seem to indicate a somewhat earlier closing than usual for the Egyptian importing season, and a material reduction in the imports as compared with last year.

Actual arrivals from Egypt since our release of June 7, include 57 cars at New York aboard the RHINE MARU on June 7, a shipment previously unreported, 13 cars at Boston aboard the PRESIDENT HARRISON on June 14, and 209 cars on the OSSA, which began unloading 116 cars at Boston on June 4, and 93 at New York on June 15.

Egyptian cargoes still afloat are the TARTAR PRINCE with 38,223 bags (153 cars) expected to reach New York today, and the RIVER DELAWARE with 15,800 bags (63 cars), due at Boston June 26.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

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November 13, 1926.

FOREIGN NEWS ON ONIONS

THE SOUTH ITALIAN ONION CROP

The South Italian onion crop in 1926 will probably be equivalent to the 1925 crop in quantity and of normally good quality, according to a recent report from Consul Harold D. Finley at Naples. Consul Finley estimates the 1925 production of onions at 1,350,000 bushels and states that possibly 375,000 to 400,000 bushels are available for export annually.

The exports of onions from the Naples district to the United States amount to about 50,000 bushels annually. The following table shows the exports of onions to the United States as declared at the Naples Consulate during the past two seasons, October 1 to September 30.

Exports of Naples onions to the United States,
1924-25 and 1925-26

Month	Season 1924-25	Season 1925-26
	<u>Bushels</u>	<u>Bushels</u>
October	636	---
November	1,058	967
December	954	2,156
January	9,150	14,910
February	21,098	11,027
March	13,399	3,150
April	518	626
May	2	---
June	772	5,879
July	884	3,977
August	---	46
September	495	78
Total	49,516	42,816

Demand for onions at the beginning of the 1926-27 season as reported to Consul Finley by exporters is not so good as at the same time last year. There seems to be some question as to this, however, since prices are considerably higher than a year ago. Red onions, which are produced principally in the Province of Avellino and do not have good keeping qualities on a long voyage, were quoted on October 26 by the Naples Chamber of Commerce at \$0.77 to \$1.14 per 100 pounds. Last year's prices at the same time ranged between \$0.64 and \$0.72 per 100 pounds. Yellow onions, produced in the Province of Caserta and suitable for export to all countries, were quoted on October 26 at \$0.95 to \$1.25 per 100 pounds.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

November 18, 1926.

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FOREIGN NEWS ON ONIONS

THE SPANISH ONION CROP

The "Grano" onion crop of Spain this year is said to be below normal in size but the quality is reported to be good, although a large percentage of small onions were harvested, according to Consul Clement S. Edwards at Valencia. Reports also indicate that the "Grano" has suffered considerably from rot this year, which was probably the most important factor in the reduction of the crop. No estimates are available as to the actual size of the crop either for the present or the past season, but the exportable surplus of "Grano" onions in a normal crop year is usually around 6,000,000 bushels. Last season about 20,000 acres were devoted to onions, including both the early "Babosa" crop and the later "Grano" crop. The acreage this year is believed to have been approximately the same.

The season up to the end of September has been very unsatisfactory, states Consul Edwards. The average price paid for onions in the field at the beginning of the season ranged from 36¢ to 44¢ per bushel. Local quotations for the month of September ranged between 13¢ and 20¢ per bushel, according to the quantity of small onions in the lot. While the first shipments of "Grano" onions to the British market this season brought from \$2.12 to \$2.32 per case of 132 pounds (2.33 bushels) for large "granos" and from \$2.68 to \$2.80 per case for the smaller sizes, the average price from the beginning of the season up to the end of September has been only from \$1.22 to \$1.70 per case. At the above prices, growers and exporters both are losing money, states Consul Edwards.

Shippers are somewhat compensated for the losses experienced in the British markets by the relatively good prices obtained in the United States, and shipments to America on a large scale are being contemplated, says the Consul. Imports of Spanish onions into the United States during the first four months, June-September, of the current season, however, amounted to only 408,000 bushels as compared with 625,130 bushels during the corresponding period last year. From 20 to 25 per cent of those imports no doubt consisted of the "Babosa" variety as the "Grano" crop is not ready for export from Spain before the end of July. The average prices received in New York for Spanish onions during September were as follows: \$4.50 to \$4.75 per case of 132 pounds; \$2.15 to \$2.35 per half case of 65 pounds; and \$1.30 to \$1.60 per crate of 36-40 pounds. Spanish onion shippers are greatly worried over the possibility of an increase in the American tariff on onions, states Consul Edwards. A rumor has been spread throughout the Valencia district that the tariff is to be raised 50 per cent, from 1¢ to 1½¢ per pound. The local press in commenting on this rumor points out that such an increase would necessitate the abandonment of the Spanish onion trade with the United States.

The shipping season for "Babosa" onions runs from May to July. The "Grano" crop begins moving to market at the end of July and continues throughout the winter months since the "Grano" is a good keeper. Total exports from Spain from the beginning of the 1926-27 season to October 2 amounted to only 1,029,000 cases and 467,000 crates as compared with 1,138,000 cases and 331,000 crates during the corresponding period last year.

The following tables give the exports of onions from Spain from 1924-25 to 1926-27 and imports into the United States from 1923-24 to 1926-27:

ONIONS: Shipments from Spain, 1924-25 to 1926-27.

Destination	1924-25	1925-26	Beginning of season to October 2	
			1925-26	1926-27
	Cases	Cases	Cases	Cases
United States	114,658	328,923	87,074	85,353
United Kingdom	1,896,767	2,223,661	982,210	891,226
Canada	25,333	33,572	14,265	21,009
All other countries :	96,607	145,129	54,657	31,193
Total	2,133,415	2,731,285	1,138,206	1,028,781
	Crates	Crates	Crates	Crates
United States	1,149,124	1,514,869	829,157	465,203
Canada	6,966	36,360	1,850	1,884
Total	1,156,090	1,551,229	831,007	467,087

Source: Consul Clement S. Edwards at Valencia.

ONIONS: United States imports from Spain, 1923-24 to 1926-27

Season	1923-24	1924-25	1925-26	1926-27
	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels
June	23,005	35,138	147,301	72,544
July	0	118,419	179,736	69,430
August	0	89,150	142,621	88,217
September	50,696	267,255	155,472	177,897
October	255,783	158,253	176,268	
November	183,235	127,546	242,151	
December	88,843	20,335	94,973	
January	57,369	90,089	107,259	
February	52,051	56,729	150,832	
March	74,795	15,059	18,845	
April	1,740	222	939	
May	1,107	0	75	
Total	788,624	978,195	1,416,472	

Source: Compiled from official records of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

